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This Week in Wabash



Hello, Wabash,

Happy Monday. Happy Belated Father's Day. Happy Juneteenth. I hope you've had a great holiday weekend and remembered to celebrate all the various special occasions. I hope your week is off to a great start. The weather was unbearably hot all last week and then we had a nice break this weekend temperature-wise. We had a chance to take the family to the park on Saturday, and I celebrated Father's Day by doing very little, which is one of my favorite things.

In this week's newsletter, I wanted to give you a quick update on the story I first told you about last week that also appeared as [the centerpiece story of last Wednesday's paper](#).

On Saturday, June 11, downtown Wabash was the site of the inaugural Run the River half marathon. Before the race, though, a local man reached out to us to let us know he has already had to overcome more obstacles than most just to make it to the starting line.

Christian Brown, 46, of Wabash, had surgery to repair a leaking heart valve in September 2021 at the Cleveland Clinic in Ohio.

Brown said since his surgery and recovery, he made it his goal to run a half marathon again.

Brown said he has been running regularly since around 2013 when he moved back to Wabash after having lived in Indianapolis for 15 years.

Brown said he has participated in a handful of half-marathons in Indianapolis including the Mini-Marathon and the Carmel Half-Marathon.

Brown said he found out he had a "mitral valve prolapse" almost 20 years ago, otherwise known as a leaking heart valve.

Brown said he was in Ohio for the surgery for a week. He said after he came home he was told to immediately start walking as much as he could.

Brown said he started with 1 to 2 miles at a time, and gradually worked his way up to 3 to 4 miles.

On Monday, June 13, Brown said he “finished OK” with a time of 2 hours and 25 minutes, which is less than the 2 hours and 30 minutes he gave himself to do it.

“No surprises,” said Brown. “It was tough and challenging, but overall very rewarding.”



In fact, by all accounts, the inaugural Run the River half-marathon was a success. Visit Wabash County executive director Christine Flohr said they finished with 315 registered runners from 12 states between the ages of 6 and 80, “if you don’t count the little ones that rode in strollers.”

Runners had a chance to sign up for a half marathon, or 13.1 miles; a 10K, or 6.2 miles; or a 5K, or 3.1 miles. Cash prizes were awarded to the top half-marathon

finishers. The event had three-course options that lead runners from the heart of downtown out to the Wabash River Trail and back, with the start and finish line being on Miami Street. In conjunction with the race, Visit Wabash County organized a Block Party on Miami Street. Food and drink vendors were set up on the east side of the street next to the runner's corral.

Flohr also announced the top finishers including:

Overall Female Half-Marathon Finishers

Coming in third place with a time of 1 hour, 53 minutes and 37 seconds was Melissa Ford-Kalbfell, of Wabash, who won a cash prize of \$150.

Coming in second place with a time of 1 hour, 53 minutes and 2 seconds was Betty Funkhouser, of Portage, who won a cash prize of \$250.

Coming in first place with a time of 1 hour, 35 minutes and 38 seconds was Jenna Halderman, of Wabash, who won a cash prize of \$500.

Overall Male Half-Marathon Finishers

Coming in third place with a time of 1 hour, 22 minutes and 13 seconds was Austen Davenport, of Columbia City, who won a cash prize of \$150.

Coming in second place with a time of 1 hour, 17 minutes and 11 seconds was Andrew Taylor, of Hillard, who won a cash prize of \$250.

Coming in first place with a time of 1 hour, 17 minutes and 2 seconds was Justin Kowalsky, of South Bend, who won a cash prize of \$500.

Well, that's all I have for you today. I hope you have a great rest of your week.

Best,
Rob



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